

INFORMATION REPORT

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Capabilities and Potential

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the following factors influence the status of science and scientific progress, scientific capabilities and potential: 25X1

(a) National policy toward science

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When national policy in Hungary is publicized along these lines, a great deal of lip service is paid to science and scientific research, but that is just about as far as it goes. In Hungary there are no funds whatsoever available for pure research, and the only funds made available for applied research are allocated exclusively to situations where immediate results can be obtained to increase some type of production. Hungarian citizens are ever in the foreground in these projects where they can be observed by the populace, but they have no real authority, and the Soviets, who always remain in the background, are the real ones in charge and in complete control. 25X1

(b) Influence of political pressures on scientific research

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Political pressures exist both in aim and toward personnel. These pressures are invariably channeled to immediate economic considerations, nothing long-range, and always in accordance with the Party line. However, political pressures do not always work out as planned. For example, Professor Z Komondy, an expert in gasoline and steam engines at the Technical Institute in Budapest, openly and publicly rebelled against

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political pressures, stating that the pressures applied were contrary to good research and free thinking. Despite this rebellion however, Professor Komondy still occupied his position at the Institute, to my knowledge, as late as 1951 and 1952, for the reason that he was too prominent a man for the Soviets to dismiss. The real point is that he was needed too badly and there was no one to replace him. It is interesting to note that the Soviets do not conduct brain-washings of people in Hungary like Professor Komondy because (a) he is too greatly needed and (b) because changing his mind through brain-washing in one respect would inevitably change it in all respects, and thereby destroy his usefulness.

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(c) Atmosphere for scientific research, such as personal incentives, availability of facilities for research, etc

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3. In so far as true scientists are concerned, there is no need to create an atmosphere for scientific research and the use of incentives, because the personal incentive will always be present in the true scientist to continue his research, regardless of his environment. In fact, and although this may sound strange at first, adverse conditions and a hostile environment usually cause researchers to become more and more introverted, and these factors thereby tend to make the researchers better scientists because of this introversion and escape from surroundings. Despite all this though, certainly the research facilities are channeled along the lines mentioned above, that is, to immediate economic considerations and in accordance with the Party line.

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(d) Standards of scientific education

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4. In Hungary, the standards of scientific education remained as high as ever before, until September or October 1948, when the standards of the educated changed. Note that the standards of the educated rather than "the standards of education." in September or October 1948 when the policy changed, all persons who were thereafter permitted to be educated or to enroll for education had to pass detailed political questionnaires in order to attend universities. However, even then, there is considerable discrimination against the middle classes, or the bourgeoisie if you will, in favor of the lowest classes - the people refer as "poor, feverish Communists." For example, the members of the middle classes - the classes which had heretofore furnished most of the scientists and researchers - who satisfactorily completed the political questionnaires in order to enroll in universities, frequently would be passed over because they were members of the middle class, and the poor, feverish, Communists would be enrolled in their stead. Thus, from the autumn of 1948, enrollments in Hungarian universities have been made on the basis of political considerations rather than on merit and ability.

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(e) Quality and supply of scientific-technical manpower

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5. Inasmuch as the quality of students enrolled in the universities has suffered a sharp and continuous drop since the autumn of 1948, it is inevitable that the quality and supply of competent scientific and technical personnel have likewise declined.

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foreign scientific literature collected and disseminated in Hungary

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The only restriction in Hungary on the free collection of, and individual subscription to, foreign scientific literature has been the availability

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of funds, which have always had to be budgeted. In other words, funds are always limited and have to be carefully allocated, but that is the only restriction on the free collection of foreign scientific literature.

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refer only to scientific publications. Many others, particularly those publications discussing political matters, have been prohibited. A typical example of the type of foreign literature which has been banned from Hungary is TIME magazine.

The following data on the Ministry of Higher Education is needed:

- (a) Methods of recruitment of science students for higher educational institutions; incentives offered; scholarships; subject fields given special emphasis.

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7. Here again the methods of recruitment follow the lines already indicated. That is, recruitment is based primarily upon political considerations, with qualified and able students discriminated against if they are of the bourgeoisie, and favoritism is invariably shown the politically orthodox, poor, feverish, Communists, regardless of their abilities and aptitudes. Under this system, there is no reason to discuss incentives and scholarships

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scientific education is channeled to immediate economic considerations, tied in with the aim of an immediate increase in production, and always in accordance with the Party line. Also in this connection, it should be observed that, in Hungary, except for religious groups, student dormitories were completely unknown and unheard of until 1948 or 1949. However, in whichever year it was, dormitories began to be built for the first time for the housing of university students. Theretofore, students had always lived at home, or in other private homes, or in boarding houses, but never in dormitories. This also ties in with the enrolling of the poor, feverish, Communists, as it is such as these who are immediately willing to live as students in university dormitories. A further reason, of course, for the erection of these dormitories is the fact that student aid is thereby made considerably easier and more economical. Furthermore, the dormitories offer an unsurpassed opportunity for continuous political indoctrination.

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Criticism and self-criticism, both favorable and unfavorable, concerning standards of higher education; absenteeism; percentage of failures; measures taken to insure improvements; morale of professors and students

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8. in the autumn of 1948, for the first time, study groups of from 15 to 20 students per group were organized in the universities under a Communist Party student leader for each group, as well as a Communist Party secretary, and a secret Communist agent whose identity is unknown but who reports on both the students of the group and the professors who teach the group. These study groups are required to do everything together - attend political demonstrations, rallies, even motion pictures, etc. These groups are purposely made numerically small for the sake of tighter control over the students, as otherwise there inevitably would be a great deal of absenteeism from such things as public demonstrations, political indoctrination lectures, etc. In other words, if a student body as a whole were required to attend a political demonstration, there could conceivably be considerable absenteeism. However, under the group system of from 15 to 20 persons per group, with a known informer of an unknown identity in each group, the opportunities for deviation are considerably lessened.

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